

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 17-40 are active in this application.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found on page 9.

New Claims 28-40 are supported by the specification on page 9-10, 31 as well as Claims 1-9 and 17-27 as originally presented.

No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous Restriction Requirement and examining all of the claims. Further, Applicants note that the "use claims" were intended to be method claims according to U.S. practice and as the Office has indicated that those claims would be restricted, they have been cancelled.

The claims of this application are directed to sulfonyl hydrazide compounds of formula I which have particular utility as JNK pathway modulators whereby JNK is involved in autoimmune and neuronal system disorders (see pages 4-5 of the present application).

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 17 and 26 under 35 USC 102(b) in view of Reddy et al based on the structure identified in scheme 1 on page 186 and the substituents in Table 1 on page 187.

It is noted that Claims 3, 5-9, and 15-19 were not included in this rejection and rightly so. Claims 3, 5, 6 and 8 have been amended to be independent claims, incorporating the limitations of Claim 1 from which they previously depended. Thus, these claims and claims dependent on Claims 3, 5-9 and 15-19 are not anticipated by Reddy.

With respect to Claim 1 and those claims that depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, as apparent in the amendment n is at least an integer of 1 and G is not an alkyl. Therefore, no overlap is deemed applicable to the Reddy publication. Further, as the compounds that result from that defined in Claim 1 and those described in Reddy are not

adjacent homologs, Claim 1 (and those that depend from Claim 1) are not obvious in view of Reddy. (see, e.g., *In re Elpern*, 140 USPQ 224 (C.C.P.A. 1964)¹).

Withdrawal of the rejection based on Reddy is requested.

The remaining issues outlined in the Official Action under 112, second paragraph (item 8) are addressed by amendment.

The term “derivative” has been replaced with “Compound” as suggested in the Action.

Claim 1 is presented and is legible.

Claims 1 and 2 define that G is an unsubstituted or substituted 4-8 membered heterocycle containing at least one heteroatom with the exclusions noted. One in this field knows what an unsubstituted or substituted 4-8 membered heterocycle containing at least one heteroatom means.

The phrase “as defined above” has been replaced with the appropriate reference where those variables are defined.

“Preferably,” “Preferred,” “most,” and “as well as” have been removed.

Claims 18 and 27 have been amended as suggested to state “A process.”

Claims 10-16 are cancelled thus also obviating the rejection under 35 USC 101.

Withdrawal of the 112, second and 101 based rejections is requested.

¹ “Where an invention for which a patent is sought is a compound which is a member of an homologous series and the prior art discloses a *nonadjacent* member of that series, we do not consider the Hass and Henze cases authority for the legal presumption of obviousness of the claimed invention.”

A Notice of Allowance is also requested.

Respectfully submitted,

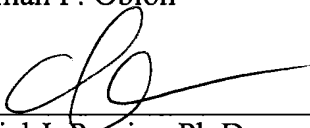
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